

Daily Thai News Summary: 6 October 2015

1. SET plans road show in New York

Source: **The Nation** ([Link](#))

The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET), together with Auerbach Grayson and Company LLC and KT Zmico Securities, will organise the roadshow "Thailand's New Economy", in New York during October 7-8.

Ten Thai companies will present their information in the event, held to attract investment from global financial institutions. *"Key topics on the roadshow will be Thailand's economy and the effectiveness of the Thai stock market, as well as the strengths of ten listed companies,"* said SET President Kesara Manchusree.

2. Thailand may host ITU Telecom World event in 2016

Source: **The Nation** ([Link](#))

Thailand is considering hosting next year's "ITU Telecom World" event in Bangkok as part of the government's plan to promote a "digital economy" policy. Information and Communications Technology Minister Uttama Savanayana yesterday met with Thares Punsri, chairman of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission, at the NBTC office to discuss hosting this international event. The event will focus on the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises and digital economy.

Uttama said his ministry would look into the details before making a final decision. Thares said the NBTC was pleased to support the event by allocating some of its budget but had to wait for approval from the ICT Ministry. NBTC secretary-general Takorn Tantasith said the commission would allocate about Bt200 million to support the event under the condition that it should be open to the public free of charge. Thailand hosted the event for the first time in 2013 at a cost of Bt250 million under the theme of *"Embracing Change in a Digital World"*. It drew more than 6,000 participants from 153 countries.

3. Tisco unit's microfinance product a boost to small firms

Source: **The Nation** ([Link](#))

The Auto refinancing arm of Tisco Bank, Hi-Way Co, is expanding into microfinance to help strengthen its portfolio with a type of lending that can help people enter the official financial system and avoid loan sharks.

Hi-Way has offered refinancing under the Somwang Ngern Sang Dai brand to tap low-income people who own vehicles, and it features the lowest interest rates in the auto-refinancing industry. It charges monthly interest of 0.55 per cent for four-wheel vehicles, 0.66 per cent for six-wheel trucks and above, and 1.25 per cent for motorcycles.

The company initiated a microfinance product under the Somwang Sabai Jai brand two months ago by cooperating with the Thai Credit Guarantee Corporation to help self-employed people get out from under the thumb of loan sharks, said Yuttpong Sriwongjanya, head of retail banking at Tisco Bank and executive director of Hi-Way. Borrowers of these unsecured loans who are self-employed must have verifiable means of earning revenue so the company can estimate their monthly income before granting a microfinance loan, he said.

4. Toyota seeks EV infrastructure support

Source: **Bangkok Post** ([Link](#))

Giant Japanese car maker Toyota Motor Corporation is poised to invest in electric vehicle (EV) production here but wants the Thai government to develop a supportive infrastructure first. Soichiro Okudaira, senior managing officer and chief technical officer for Asian Oceania and China, said Toyota was confident of building a manufacturing facility here for hybrid vehicles and EVs, pending the Thai government's policy on them. However, Thailand has yet to develop electric charging stations for drivers.

5. Operators seek SEZ perks

Source: **Bangkok Post** ([Link](#))

Renewable energy operators are urging the government to extend the corporate income tax break for investment in special economic zones (SEZs) to 13 years from the current eight.

They have also asked the government to expand electricity transmission lines to serve renewable energy businesses in SEZs, said Pichai Tinsuntisook, head of the renewable energy club of the Federation of Thai Industries.

The government has announced investment in SEZs will be rewarded with generous privileges including corporate income tax exemption for eight years, a 50% tax reduction on net profit from investment over five years, double tax deductions for the cost of transport, electricity and water supply for 30 years and an additional 25% tax deduction for the cost of installation or construction of facilities.

By Harsha Hazarika